

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
THE HONORABLE JOE PITTS

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as members of Congress, we all know that our time in this chamber is limited. Each election brings new faces, while history records the names of members as they leave the chamber for the last time. Some members, however, will be remembered long after they have left for the work they do on behalf of the American people. JOE PITTS is one of those members. During his time in Congress, he became known for his dedication to helping his constituents. He was always someone who could be counted on to help create real solutions and to uphold the best traditions of this chamber. He took the lead on helping craft legislative solutions to some of the most difficult problems of our time, including fixes to Medicare and research for deadly diseases. He was also a dedicated fighter on behalf of the pro-life cause, and used the pulpit of elected office to give a voice to the unborn. But perhaps most of all, JOE will be remembered as a man who cared deeply about helping others, and his legacy will be one of working to improve the lives of the American people. Oh behalf of myself and all Pennsylvanians, thank you JOE for your years of dedicated service. I am honored to call you a friend, and wish you all the best in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF WELDON  
BURGOON AND WELDON'S SADDLE  
SHOP & WESTERN WEAR

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a long-time Denton business, Weldon's Saddle Shop & Western Wear. The community and I are saddened that the store will close its doors after nearly 60 years of business on January 14, 2017. Weldon's presence on the downtown Denton square will be long remembered.

Weldon Burgoon opened his shop in 1957, where he sold handmade leather saddles and accessories. In the '60s and '70s Weldon's was surrounded by many feed shops and farming centers, and when ranchers and cowboys came into town, many made sure to stop by Weldon's before they left. Over the years, Mr. Burgoon worked with his daughter, Kippie, and grandson, Clint, to make Weldon's a staple in downtown Denton.

During his time as store owner, Mr. Burgoon crafted over 150 custom saddles and provided thousands of customers with quality Western wear, but he also offered more than just merchandise. Weldon's attracted many high school and college students who were members of the Future Farmers of America organization. These students would work at Burgoon's shop and on his ranch to get school credit and to gain valuable work experience. Mr. Burgoon also served as the rodeo chairman for the North Texas Fair and Rodeo for

14 years. Noted for his reputation for excellence, demonstrated work ethic and dedication to cowboy culture, he was inducted into the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2010. Last year, his store was named a Denton County Heritage Business for being in existence for over 50 years.

Mr. Burgoon, now 86, has decided to close the shop after the 2016 holiday season. He looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Joy, and seeing his grandson's new luxury leather store open in Weldon's original location. It is an honor to represent Mr. Burgoon, a local business icon, in the U.S. House of Representatives.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
KAZAKHSTAN'S INDEPENDENCE

**HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of Kazakhstan's independence and the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and the United States of America. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the people of Kazakhstan on the tremendous progress achieved by their country during the past quarter century.

The U.S. is the first country to have recognized Kazakhstan's independence and since then we have significantly increased our areas of cooperation. However, the cornerstone of the U.S.—Kazakhstan relations has always been cooperation in nuclear non-proliferation and security.

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan inherited the fourth largest nuclear arsenal in the world and the world's largest nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk. In the first years of Kazakhstan's independence, President Nazarbayev renounced nuclear weapons and closed the Semipalatinsk Test Site. The United States provided Kazakhstan with comprehensive assistance in the removal of nuclear warheads, weapons-grade materials, and their supporting infrastructure.

Five years after gaining its independence, Kazakhstan signed the Comprehensive-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and ratified it in May of 2002. The CTBT bans any nuclear weapon test explosion above or below ground or any other contained environment. Ratifying the CTBT was a milestone toward creating a safer world. However, as a universally recognized leader in nuclear non-proliferation, Kazakhstan understands that it is time to move from a nuclear test ban to a nuclear-weapons free world. This is why Kazakhstan and its neighbors—Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan—created the Central Asian Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone.

We should acknowledge that Kazakhstan has continued to show its commitment expanding its cooperation with the United States on matters of nuclear non-proliferation. As an important example, our two countries are collaborating in building the Nuclear Security Training Center (NSTC). The NSTC will provide training of personnel on security and safeguards essential for safe operation of nuclear facilities in Kazakhstan.

Twenty-five years of close cooperation between Kazakhstan and the United States are

the foundation of an important strategic partnership focused on creating a world without nuclear weapons and ultimately a more stable peace around the globe. It is important that we recognize Kazakhstan's leadership in nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation. Kazakhstan continues to serve as an example to the international community, and the United States must remain committed to supporting Kazakhstan's efforts to further prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and materials toward a goal of global security.

Mr. Speaker, it is a true pleasure to celebrate the quarter century of Kazakhstan's independence. I would like to extend my warm wishes to the people of Kazakhstan and President Nazarbayev.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I missed a series of recorded votes on December 5, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted "YES" on roll call vote No. 601, No. 602, and No. 603.

HONORING MR. DANIEL S.  
CONDRON

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daniel S. Condrón upon his retirement after serving for 11 years as the Vice President of University Affairs at Sonoma State University. Mr. Condrón has led an impressive career over 44 years and has been a leader in the areas of education, economic development and transportation.

A native of North Tonawanda, New York, Mr. Condrón completed his B.S. and M.S. Degrees in Electrical Engineering at Stanford University. Mr. Condrón worked with Hewlett-Packard for 33 years in management positions across a number of business areas including research and development, production, and public affairs.

Mr. Condrón has focused his career in education on increasing opportunities for all students from preschool through employment. In his role as Vice President, Mr. Condrón's priorities have included community and governmental relations, marketing and communication, creative services and special events for Sonoma State. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Sonoma County Cradle to Career Operations Team. Mr. Condrón has also served as President of the Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education, Vice President for the Santa Rosa Junior College Foundation, and Chairman of the Vice Presidents for Advancement for the California State University System. Mr. Condrón has demonstrated a unique ability to bring people together to accomplish goals to improve the future for countless individuals in our community.

Mr. Condrón is a proven community leader. He has served many community organizations

including serving as President of the Boy Scouts of America Redwood Empire Council, the Luther Burbank Center for the Performing Arts, and the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Condrón is also the Chair-elect of United Way of the Wine Country.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Condrón has made tremendous, long-lasting contributions to Sonoma State University and to improving opportunities for students in our community. He is a true friend of Sonoma State University and a good friend of mine. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today and extend our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 591 on final passage of H.R. 5047, the Protecting Veterans' Educational Choice Act of 2016, I would have voted Aye, which is consistent with my position on this legislation.

#### HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the First Church of God in Merced County. Their practice in faith and education has provided love and charity to the people of Merced County and the San Joaquin Valley for the last century. The future is looking even brighter for this outstanding center of community faith in the years to come.

The roots of the First Church of God found humble beginnings in 1916, when the Bowen and Houser families moved from Lodi, California to Atwater to begin their fellowship. Their first church services were held in their own homes until they found the opportunity to rent the old Winton Community Hall for larger gatherings, with nothing more than dirt floors and handmade backless benches. By 1924, the church was able to raise their first building with a \$350 credit and payments of \$25 a month. That very building would now fit in the lobby of the First Church of God's current place of worship, which was built in 1961. The First Church of God's Christian Preschool was born in 1964 and has grown into one of the largest places of faith based childcare and in the Atwater-Merced area.

The services provided by the First Church of God and Christian Preschool are as commendable as they are diverse. Sunday school, bible studies, troubled youth outreach, marriage counseling, finance and debt management, and shared missionary services in 87 countries are only a few of the programs offered by the Church and Preschool.

The coming years will prove to be a fruitful time for this place of worship and education. Their undertaking of a \$1.2 million project to

furnish a new learning center, which will potentially double the enrollment of children in their facility over the next two years of operation. While it will certainly be challenging, their fellowship has said, "faith is tested and demonstrated in the midst of challenges God places in front of us. If we had everything we needed to start and/or finish, it wouldn't be faith—it would be fact."

Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the First Church of God for their remarkable service to the people of Merced County over the last 100 years. Their history illustrates the uncompromising will that individuals with big dreams can exercise when brought together with enough faith in God and community.

#### MARY BERG

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Mary Berg for being recognized by the West Chamber as a 2016 Celebrate Women Honoree. Celebrate Women Honorees are known for their perseverance, accomplishments, generosity, and dedication to their passions and their community.

For more than 21 years, Mary Berg has served the Jefferson County community in many different capacities. She is currently the Deputy Director of Jefferson County Department of Human Services. She is passionate about ensuring the safety and well-being of children and their families. Her actions at the local, state and national levels have promoted the expansion of child welfare training programs and systems of care as well as legislation impacting children and families.

Mary received her Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and is also a graduate of the Leadership Jefferson County class of 2008. She has co-authored publications on teamwork and has presented at multiple state and national conferences. Her tireless efforts to enable Jefferson County to serve more vulnerable children and families have improved the community greatly.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mary Berg for this well-deserved recognition by the West Chamber.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOEL HANRAHAN

### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowa native Joel Hanrahan upon his retirement from Major League Baseball (MLB) after a successful seven-year career, playing for 3 different MLB franchises.

Ever since the second grade, when his teachers or classmates would ask what he wanted to be when he grew up, Joel knew he wanted to be a baseball player. He became known to Iowans as a star pitcher for the Norwalk High School Warriors, later pitching for the University of Nebraska before being drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2000. After

honing his skills in the minor leagues, he made his MLB debut with the Washington Nationals on July 28, 2007. He earned his first win as a pitcher a week later against the St. Louis Cardinals. Despite his love of the game, Joel ultimately had to make the difficult decision to retire in 2016. During his career, he compiled a 22–18 record with a 3.85 earned-run average and 100 saves. He also earned a coveted position in the 2011 and 2012 Major League Baseball All-Star games.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Joel for his years of dedication to a game he loves. I am certain that the drive that led him to become an MLB All-Star pitcher will lead to success no matter where his path takes him next. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE COURAGE AND BRAVERY OF THE FALLEN OFFICER COLLIN ROSE IN THE LINE OF DUTY

### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Officer Collin Rose of the Wayne State University's Police Department, who was tragically lost in the line of duty. The Wayne State University Police serve a significant portion of the City of Detroit in addition to the university, and Officer Rose performed his duties with distinction. The community will miss his courage and bravery.

Officer Rose established a reputation as a kind and caring individual dedicated to solving issues in his community. Rose was born and raised in Pittsburgh, where he excelled as a standout football player in high school. After graduating from Ferris State University in 2010, he began his career in law enforcement as an intern for the Springfield Police Department in southwest Michigan. He then was hired as a cadet in the New Baltimore Police Department, after which he became a police officer at the Village of Richland Police Department. Rose then took a position with the Wayne State University Police, where he had an outstanding record of service and was known for his selflessness and dedication in protecting the city of Detroit and its citizens. Rose also served the community through his involvement with various charitable causes, including the Police Unity Tour, which raises awareness of officers who have died in the line of duty.

Officer Rose's death at a young age is a heartbreaking tragedy. Officer Rose embodied the principles of service and duty, and having such a promising young man's life cut short is a tremendous loss for the law enforcement community and the city of Detroit. His sacrifice shows the extraordinary risks that our nation's police face on a daily basis, and my heart goes out to his family during this difficult period. Officer Rose is a true hero, and it is my hope that his family and the community find strength and come together to honor such an amazing life in the aftermath of his passing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the extraordinary life and